

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**Martin Middle School**

**111 Brown Street**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**School Committee Meeting**

**August 15, 2006**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Gouveia called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. All members were present: Robert Faria, Eileen Lovett, David Medeiros, Mildred Morris and Antone Gouveia. Also present: Dr. Jacqueline Forbes and Andrew Thomas, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.**

**Public Session reconvened at 7:30PM. A motion was made by Mrs. Lovett to return to public session and seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed.**

## **Record of Previous Meetings ¡V (Tabled to the Next Meeting)**

**Chair¡s Report ¡V Mr. Gouveia stated that the School Committee is very proud of the new Superintendent and pledged total support, during a most time to begin the Superintendency.**

**Mr. Gouveia also expressed thanks to our legislative delegation for their support and increased in State Aid to East Providence.**

**Representative Helio Melo is serving on a committee to establish an education formula for the State. A letter has been sent to the Board of Regents requesting they review the issue of class size for special education students, which is lower than other New England States.**

**Mr. Gouveia advised that copies of the budget would be available at the August 22, 2006 School Committee meeting; the School Committee may extend the budget process for an additional week.**

**Security Review ¡V Mr. Rodericks thanked Mr. Faria. At his request, a task force was formed to review security procedures for our schools.**

**Sgt. Thomas Rush of the East Providence Police Department was also present. They advised that an interim report was completed regarding all schools and a security task force. This will be an on-going process. The School Committee can review the documents and schedule of visitations. There are several new recommendations in the report. The police went to schools unannounced to conduct lock downs. Sgt. Rush addressed the School Committee regarding the drills and made the following recommendations, which are low cost options which could be corrected:**

**„X Education of students is very important**

**„X Secure door locks which are old and do not work properly**

**„X All doors need to be numbered at all schools, especially the High School**

**„X Training of all school personnel including substitute teachers is key**

**„X Site Information kit, especially keys and daily census**

**„X Address public address systems which do not work in common areas**

**„X**

**The police believe that practice will familiarize everyone with code red drills. Mr. Rodericks stated that a grant has been submitted to try to get the funds to address some areas such as door locks, etc. Mr. Medeiros thanked Bob Rodericks and Sgt. Rush for their accomplishments. Mr. Faria applauded the efforts of the committee to provide a safe place for kids at all times.**

**Hearings iV None**

**Reading of Communications iV Mr. Gouveia read correspondence sent to Mayor Larisa on August 9, 2006, asking the City to join in a resolution to the legislature regarding special education class size, which is now 1:10 according to Board of Regents regulations; while in Massachusetts, the regulation is 1:12.**

## **Report of Superintendent and Staff**

**FY 2005-06 Financial Report ¡V Dr. Hilton presented the report. Mr. Medeiros questioned the negative number on librarians. Mr. Gouveia asked about tuitions, which is over by \$242,000. Dr. Forbes explained that although we are well known in the State as an excellent provider of special education, some students need to be sent out and we have no control over those placements. We cannot control the number or the program. This area is very difficult to budget. Mr. Gouveia questioned an over budgeted item, teachers' pension. Dr. Forbes explained that the Retirement Board notifies us in the spring each year of the rate and we can only anticipate it going up. Mr. Gouveia asked about lease payments for roof replacements during emergencies. (Orlo and Waddington Schools). Mr. Gouveia asked if this report included all bills. Dr. Hilton assured him that all bills were posted and the report was current.**

## **Awarding of Bids ¡V None**

**Personnel Recommendations ¡V Mrs. Diane Rodericks reported the following personnel items:**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Patricia Piros      Digital Portfolio Coordinator, SHS**

**Teresa Medeiros     Science Department Head, RMS**  
**Frances Barry     Guidance Department Head, MMS**  
**Gary Faragalli     Guidance Teacher, MMS**  
**Lauren Mitchell     School Nurse/Teacher**  
**Nancy Hughes     Speech-Language Pathologist**  
**Alex Kanelos     Head Coach, Baseball, SHS**  
**Benjamin Figueiredo     Head Coach, Girls' Soccer, SHS**  
**Robert J. Rodericks     Asst. Coach, Freshman Football**  
**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **RETIREMENT**

**Frederick Anderson (37 yrs)     Assistant Principal, RMS**

**Close of 2006-2007 Year**

**Motion: Morris with regret/Second: Lovett. Vote 5-0. Wished well by the School Committee.**

## **RESIGNATION**

**Maria Feid     Teacher Assistant, SHS**

**Effective September 1, 2006**

**Richard Silva     Advisor, Environmental Club, SHS**  
**Tabitha Watjen     Sophomore Class Advisor, SHS**  
**Alan Svendson     Coach, Freshman Baseball, SHS**  
**Jack Burgo     Coach, JV Boys' Soccer, SHS**  
**John Martins     Asst Coach, Freshman Football, SHS**

**Kerri Scandura      Coach, Girls' Soccer, MMS**

**Joe Bronco      Coach, Boys' Soccer, MMS**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Kevin O'Grady      Boys' Soccer, RMS**

**2006-2007 School Year**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **EXTENDED PERSONAL LEAVE**

**John Gendron      Physical Education Teacher, SHS**

**2006-2007 School Year**

**Judy LaCross      Reading Teacher, SHS**

**2006-2007**

**Carole Melucci      Educational Specialist**

**2006-2007 School Year**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **PARENTAL LEAVE**

**Julie Martin      Speech/Language Pathologist, SPED      2006-2007**

**School Year**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE**

**Joanne Hall Grade 2 Teacher, Job Sharing, Kent Heights September 5 ;V December 1, 2006**  
**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros & Faria. Vote 5-0.**

## **RECALL**

**Roger Farmer Education Specialist**

**Leslie Eastwood Math Teacher**

**Motion: Medeiros/Second: Faria. Vote 5-0.**

## **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE 2 YEAR TERM**

**Diane Rodericks George Sarganis**

**Antone Gouveia Maryann Mathews**

**Onna Moniz-John Jerome Spinola**

**William Fontes Theodore Lima**

**Donna Scanlon George Lima**

**Toni-Maria Spencer**

**Motion: Lovett/Second: Faria. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia recused himself. Vote 4-0.**

## **Appointment**

**Kristen Nelson Soccer Cheerleading Coach, H/S**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Faria. Vote 5-0.**

## **Resignation**

**Michael Meehen    Elementary Teacher**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**Facilities Update - Dr. Forbes presented a report from Mr. Mutter, Director of Buildings & Grounds as follows:**

**High School: Outside pool wall has been repaired (cracks and mortar erosion over the years), New sewer cover was put in place on the softball field, all grated covers at the window wells were removed and openings were cleared out by the city. Drains in the parking lot were cleaned out. An electrician will be working on new lights for the clock tower after the old lights were vandalized. Work continues at the Career/Technical Center and a proposal is being prepared for a new hearing system. At Martin Middle School, new lighting is being installed throughout the school. A new roof is being installed at Silver Spring School. Custodial work continues throughout the system getting ready for the fall opening of school.**

**Dr. Forbes, Mr. Vinhateiro, and Harry Mutter toured the school buildings. Although a few more things need to be done, the buildings will be ready for opening of school. Dr. Forbes informed the School Committee that she is also working on a proposal for the high school heating system.**

**Requests for Home Schooling ¡V Mr. Rodericks advised that the**

requests meet all the requirements and he recommended approval. Motion by Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.

FY 2006-07 Budget ¶ Dr. Forbes advised the School Committee they would be receiving a 2006-2007 preliminary budget tomorrow. She stated that ¶the proposed budget is a collective needs budget that reflects the needs of teachers, Department Heads, Supervisors, Maintenance and Custodians, Principals, representing the needs of all schools of the district within the parameters of reasonableness and cost effectiveness. Our goal is to attain our educational objectives at a reasonable cost to the community.¶ She explained that the budget planning process began last February and March when requests were sent to the Principals, Department Heads and Supervisors. In April and May, the requests were reviewed and given careful consideration by central administration staff. The Superintendent compiled data, reviewed recommendations, and prepared a draft preliminary budget with the Director of Budget and Finance. In June and July, the Superintendent along with the Director of Budget and Finance and the School Committee Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the draft budget. In early August, a joint budget workshop was held between the School Department and the City. Dr. Forbes related that she will make a budget proposal presentation to the School Committee on August 22, 2006; the School Committee will consider the proposal and make adjustments, and a final budget meeting will be held at City Hall on August 29, 2006 to adopt a budget to be forwarded to the City Manager. Dr. Forbes

thanked Mr. Faria and Mr. Gouveia, subcommittee members, for assistance in developing the preliminary budget.

**Report of Sub-Committees** ;V Mr. Gouveia advised that the Budget Subcommittee met several times and they still have questions. Mrs. Lovett commented that all parent groups are invited to the August 22nd meeting at City Hall.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Financial Audit** ;V Joanna Larue of Parmalee, Poirier attended. She explained that 2005 was a good year compared to years past. Figures on Page 56 of the audit show the budget to actual broken down by category. On Page 16, the previous year showed a deficit and it indicates the deficit is being worked on to reduce and eventually eliminate it.

**School Calendar** ;V 2006-07 (Amendment) ;V State Law required that school buildings be closed on Primary Day, September 12, 2006. Since the law was passed after the calendar was approved, it is necessary to amend the calendar to reflect the change. Motion by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.

**2006 Schedule of School Committee Meetings (Amended)** ;V Due to school closing on September 12, 2006 for Primary Day, the School Committee meeting scheduled on that date (second Tuesday of the

month) was rescheduled to September 11, 2006. Motion by Mrs. Morris to approve, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

**Defibrillation Policies & Procedures (Second Passage) ¶V** After discussion training and location of the units, a motion was made to approve by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

**Policy II.F.3. Wellness Policy Amendment ¶V** A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve second passage of the policy, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.

**Policy II.F.4. Crisis Response Amendment ¶V** A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve second passage, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.

**Universal Breakfast Program ¶V** After discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Lovett to retry the pilot program from September, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Further discussion ensued and Maryann Matthews, Frances Doherty, Maggie Rogers, and George C. Page spoke in favor of the program and requested that the program be continued. A final decision was made to send out forms in September, run the pilot program from October to December in four schools: Waddington, Francis, Oldham and Orlo. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, nay; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Vote 4-1

to approve.

## **New Business**

**Organizational Chart** ¡V A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

**Riverside Middle School Sign** ¡V Dr. Forbes asked for a motion of support for the sign which will be purchased by the PTA and installed by the School Department. Motion by Mrs. Morris to support, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

**Full Day Kindergarten** ¡V Dr. Forbes related that the district has a five year plan to implement full day kindergarten, which is presently at Kent Heights and hope to expand to all elementary schools. There will be no budget impact to implement full day K at Oldham because of small enrollment numbers. The same program will be offered at both schools and by 2011, East Providence will have a full day Kindergarten in place. If fiscal parameters allow, decisions can be made annually regarding K programs. A motion was made to approve by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

## **Payment of Bills**

### **Local Operating Bill List**

**Warrant #000662 6/20/06 \$ 220,881.67**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Warrant #000664 6/26/06 \$1,400,179.52**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Warrant #000668 7/12/06 \$1,324,979.42**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Federal Bill List**

**Warrant #000666 7/5/06 \$ 212,746.33**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made to move to Executive Session by Mr. Medeiros at 10:10PM , seconded by Mrs. Morris.**

**A motion was made to return to public session by Mrs. Morris at 11:10PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn at 11:12PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

**David A. Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee**